



## ALAMEDA COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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### ***Transportation Update***

***February 2004***

#### **CMA Takes Next Step in the Update of its Long Range Plan**

The CMA is in the process of updating its long-range transportation plan for Alameda County. This plan will form the basis for the Alameda County component of MTC's regional transportation plan. Based on the funding estimates provided by MTC, at its February meeting, the CMA decided on a list of key projects that would be funded off the top and also established budgets for each of the four geographic areas of the county. The key projects include AC Transit's rapid bus project on Telegraph and Int'l Blvd/E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, the BART Oakland Airport Connector, the BART extension in Fremont as the first phase of an extension to Santa Clara County, improvements in the I-580 corridor in the Livermore Valley, improvements on the I-680 Sunol Grade, and mitigation for the construction of a 4<sup>th</sup> Bore at the Caldecott Tunnel. The CMA will produce a draft plan in April 2004 with a final due to MTC by the end of May. Meetings will be held in April and May to solicit public input on the draft plan. The specific dates have not yet been set.

#### **MTC to Consider Actions Related to State Fiscal Crisis**

The State fiscal crisis has had severe impacts on the transportation program in the Bay Area. At the request of the CMAs, MTC is considering using some of the federal funding at its discretion to support key projects that would be delayed due to the lack of State funding. MTC staff has indicated that it may be able to free up approximately \$60 million in federal funding in the next few years for this purpose. The CMA has submitted its list of candidate projects to MTC, emphasizing transit and Measure B projects. MTC is

expected to make its decision on this matter in April.

#### **CMA Takes Next Step on I-680 SMART Carpool Lane Project**

Last year the CMA Board authorized staff to pursue a project on the I-680 Sunol Grade to test the viability of a high occupancy toll lane. This SMART carpool lane demonstration would permit single occupant vehicles to use the carpool lane for a fee. Carpools, vanpools and busses would still go free. Alameda County's new transportation sales tax program, Measure B, includes funding for such a demonstration. In February, the CMA authorized staff to contract with consultants to assist with this project and to work with Caltrans on the design of the carpool lanes to assure that the demonstration project can be accommodated. If the CMA secures Legislative authorization for this demonstration, full engineering will begin and the project could open in 2007 or 2008 depending on the construction schedule for the underlying carpool lane project.

#### **Board Awards I-680 Soundwall Contract**

As part of the partnership with Caltrans to improve the I-680 Sunol Grade, the CMA will administer a contract to construct soundwalls at several locations in Fremont and Milpitas. These soundwalls are part of the required mitigation for the widening of this freeway for a carpool lane. The \$10.2 million contract was awarded to the RGW Construction/Focus Construction Joint Venture. Construction will begin this year with completion scheduled for summer 2005.

## Altamont Commuter Express Annual Report Presented to CMA

As part of the agreement to support the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) service, an annual report to the participating partners is required. ACE staff provided a report to the CMA Board at its February meeting. For fiscal year 2004/05 ACE will maintain its existing schedule and fare structure. Many transit services are experiencing low ridership due to the slumping economy, and the ACE service is no exception. The low ridership also means lower fare revenue. ACE staff is looking at innovative ways to maintain and increase ridership and fare revenue, including providing services on the train such as Wi-Fi internet connections and fitness cars. The CMA funds the Alameda portion of the ACE service with ACTIA Measure B funds.

## CMA Draft Budget Released for Comment

The CMA's draft budget for fiscal year 2004-05 is available for comment. A copy can be obtained from the CMA offices. A final budget will be adopted at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Deadlines to Note

### 2004 Countywide Transportation Plan (CWTP) & 2005 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

<i>Draft CWTP</i>	<i>April 2004</i>
<i>Final CWTP</i>	<i>May 2004</i>
<i>Draft RTP</i>	<i>December 2004</i>
<i>Final RTP</i>	<i>January 2005</i>

### Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA): Program Manager Funds – Guarantee Program

Approximately \$1.27 million is available.

<i>Draft Program</i>	<i>March 2004</i>
<i>Final Program</i>	<i>April 2004</i>

### 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

<i>MTC Program to CTC</i>	<i>March 22, 2004</i>
<i>CTC Adopts 2004 STIP</i>	<i>August 5, 2004</i>

## Upcoming Meetings

<i>March</i>	<i>2 CMA Technical Advisory Committee</i>
	<i>15 CMA Administration &amp; Legislation Committee</i>
	<i>15 CMA Plans &amp; Programs Committee</i>
	<i>25 CMA Board Meeting</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>6 CMA Technical Advisory Committee</i>
	<i>7/8 CTC (Napa)</i>
	<i>12 CMA Administration &amp; Legislation Committee</i>
	<i>12 CMA Plans &amp; Programs Committee</i>
	<i>22 CMA Board Meeting</i>

## Late News: Voters Approve Regional Measure 2

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> voters in the Bay Area approved Regional Measure 2. This measure raises the toll on State-owned bridges in the Bay Area to \$3 and will generate approximately \$125 million annually for transportation improvements. Projects in Alameda County include the BART Oakland Airport Connector, AC Transit service improvements in the Int'l Blvd/E. 14<sup>th</sup> corridor, expanded ferry service to San Francisco, improving I-880 in Oakland, expanding bus service on the toll bridges, implementing a new rail service in the Dumbarton Bridge corridor, extending BART to south Fremont, and improvements in the Livermore Valley in the I-580 corridor. The challenge now moves to delivering on these projects.

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